

Revitalization of [Faculty Professional Development Committee](#) (a Senate subcommittee)

***How Shall the Academic Senate Reestablish its
Faculty Professional Development Committee?***

Suggestions from Current Professional Development Coordinators on Reestablishment (as stated in Open Forum on 2 October 2024 and drawn from the related materials in the draft minutes). Alexa Forrester and Ann Foster, current Professional Development Coordinators, advised proceeding with two distinct committees:

- Maintain / modify as needed existing [Professional Development Committee](#), which is the multi-constituent group charged to create / organize Professional Development Activities (PDA) Day. Suggestion was to include 2-3 Senate appointees on that committee in support of faculty contribution and maintain 10+1 purview specific to item #8.
- Revitalize / Reestablish / Update [Senate Subcommittee on Faculty Professional Development](#) with faculty appointees from each Senate Area of Representation to ensure broad faculty representation across discipline expertise (*13 areas currently, 11 of which relate to contract faculty and 2 of which relate to associate faculty*).
- Update subcommittee charge to include bringing high quality professional development opportunities to faculty on pressing matters (such as AI culturally relevant pedagogy, universal design for learning, etc.) on an ongoing manner in ways that are accessible and relevant to disciplines.
- Recommendations made for two separate committees specific to belief that the charge and workflow of the two committees are different enough that treating them as a single committee would be overcomplicated and inefficient.

- **Questions to Consider in Discussion (non-exhaustive)**
 - **Primary Question – How shall we reinstate?**
 - Shall the subcommittee membership remain as stated?
 - Shall the subcommittee charge remain as stated?
 - Shall the subcommittee faculty members also serve on the consultation committee?
 - How shall subcommittee meetings be scheduled/structured
 - How shall the Bylaws be amended to reflect any changes or updates we reach?
 - Shall these questions, as well as any other raised, be forwarded to ASEC to address?

- **Concrete examples of work related to the committee include but not limited to:**
 - [The New Faculty Mentor Program](#)
 - [Faculty Professional Development](#)
 - [SRJC Professional Development Plan](#)
 - [New Associate and Contract Faculty Orientations](#)
 - [Faculty Forever Flex Activities](#)
 - [Communities of Practice \(CoPs\)](#)
 - [Consultation on grants that involve 10+1 purview](#)
 - District-related [faculty training on SLOs](#), [DEIAA](#), teaching and learning, etc.
 - Processes for accessing, attending, and sharing discipline specific trainings and conferences

Support Document – Action Item (1st read) October 16, 2024
How Shall the Academic Senate Reestablish its [Faculty Professional Development Committee](#)?

- **Rationale for Reestablishment:**
 - Policies for faculty professional development activities are [#8 on the 10+1](#)
 - *The Academic Senate in Spring 2023 recommended to the District that [#8 of the 10+1](#) be moved to “rely primarily upon” status, and continued advocacy of this recommendation has persisted from past to current senate presidents*
 - The role of the faculty in self-determining their discipline expertise is centrally important in our delivery of curriculum and student learning outcomes.
 - Current practices lack equitable structures and processes by which discipline expertise can be accessed, assessed, and shared with their peers.
 - All faculty deserve equitable access and robust support in their professional development activities.

- **Committee description, membership, and charge [as outlined in Article III, Section 4 of our Bylaws](#):**
 - Section 4: Faculty Professional Development Committee**
 - A. Composition: At least five faculty members appointed by the Senate. These should include representatives from a variety of disciplines and should include contract and associate faculty. The Faculty Professional Development Coordinator(s) will be appointed by the Senate for two years. The Staff Development Coordinator will serve as a non-voting ex officio member.
 - B. Duties:
 1. The committee will be responsible for determining the professional development needs of all faculty, for setting goals, and for evaluating progress towards those goals.
 2. The committee will oversee all professional development activities for faculty, including the Flexible Calendar.
 3. The committee will coordinate its work with the staff development activities of other groups in the college through the Professional Development Committee.
 4. The Faculty Professional Development Coordinator(s) will maintain close communication with and receive guidance from the Senate.
 5. The Committee will consult with the bargaining agent when appropriate.
 - C. Meetings: Meetings will be scheduled by the Faculty Professional Development Coordinator(s) as needed to discuss faculty-specific professional development matters being discussed by the Professional Development Committee.

- **Why is a Senate subcommittee subject to the Brown Act, but a Senate consultation committee is not? Our local understanding operates under these parameters:**
 - **Senate subcommittees are subject to the Brown Act because they directly represent our 10+1 interests.**
 - For example, [the Curriculum Review Committee](#) is a Brown Act meeting because we are directly addressing [Items #1, 2, & 4 of the 10+1](#), as well as [reviewing and certifying Title 5 course standards compliance](#). It also (locally defined) reports directly to the Board.
 - The Faculty Professional Development Committee – which is articulated in our Bylaws as a Senate subcommittee – directly addresses [Item #8 of the 10+1 “Policies for faculty professional development activities”](#) and is subject to the Brown Act.
 - **Senate consultation committees share responsibilities across multiple constituencies (district, classified, faculty) and are not exclusive to 10+1 issues.**
 - Local Senate consultation committees are not subject to the Brown Act.
 - The [Professional Development Committee](#) is a Senate Consultation Committee because it addresses district, classified, and faculty interests.